

1-227-73

24 JAN 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : Deputy Director for Intelligence
SUBJECT : Use of Informal Communications to
Provide CIA Comments on State
Reporting
REFERENCE : State Airgram A-7707, 10 October 1974

1. You will recall that the reference established an informal means by which CIA production analysts could provide feedback and comment on current reporting by US diplomatic missions. The goal is to encourage specific and timely interaction with some of the principal consumers of State's overseas reporting. You asked to be given a mid-January recap as to how the proposal was working.

2. Since October analysts in OER, OPR, OCI, and one NIO have sent 17 informal letters to State overseas posts. In some instances we have drawn blanks in that no dialogue developed and there has been no improvement in the quality of reporting. We have received, however, some positive responses to our communications. The most useful exchanges that have developed seem to have come about when some form of personal contact, in Washington or abroad, triggered off additional dialogue.

3. A few representative examples include:

While on home leave the Political Officer from the Embassy in Lima made contact with an analyst in OCI.

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This was followed up by a number of informal letters that discussed current issues. Although these communications have not been as productive as we would like, they have been improving in quality, and the analyst intends to continue them.

- . Talks were held with Ambassador Viron P. Vaky from Bogota during his visit to Washington last November. He encouraged informal correspondence to develop a dialogue with officers of his mission, and we are following up on his positive attitude.
- . The OCI analyst following Italian affairs had occasion to meet the Political Counselor in Rome at a time a draft National Intelligence Estimate was being coordinated. Since then there have been informal communications on other subjects, and we have been pleased by the positive response from Rome. As a spin-off of this effort, the OCI analyst established closer contacts with State's desk officer in Washington.
- . In one instance, however, the system seemed to function, at least partially, without any prior personal contact. This occurred when the OCI analyst for Central America wrote to the political officers in Tegucigalpa and San Salvador requesting an exchange of views on the dispute between El Salvador and Honduras. The Political Officer in Tegucigalpa responded in somewhat less than satisfactory fashion, and no response was received from San Salvador.

3. In sum, we believe the initial responses to the new procedures have been encouraging but by no means overwhelming. No tap root is in evidence yet, and the new procedures will have to be nurtured if they are to take hold. The Human Sources Committee believes that this kind of informal communication has potential, and in its draft Objectives for 1975 has set a goal of encouraging the increased use of official/informal letters as a means of improving communications between intelligence producers and field reporters. I intend to encourage this effort also.



EDWARD W. PROCTOR
Deputy Director for Intelligence

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